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TELEGRAM

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4466 IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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UNCLAS OTTAWA 393

GENEVA FOR DISDEL

SUBJECT: COMMONS DEBATE ON ABM: STATEMENTS BY EXTAFFMIN
SHARP

REF: OTTAWA 390

1. SHARP SAID THERE ARE THREE MATTERS RELEVANT TO THE
NDPI ATTACK ON ABM SYSTEM: (A) EFFECT OF ABM DECISION ON
INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC SITUATION, (B) EFFECT ON EAST-
WEST RELATIONS, AND (C) PROBLEMS IT CREATES FOR CANADA.

2. UNDER POINT (A) HE MENTIONED CHINESE THREAT AND DANGER
OF ESCALATION OF US-SOVIET ARMS RACE. HE SAID IT IS
RELEVANT TO ASK IF CHINESE THREAT JUSTIFIES US DECISION,
ADDING THAT PRIMIN WISE IN SAYING HE WILL RESERVE JUDGMENT
UNTIL TALKING TO PRESIDENT. ON QUESTION OF ESCALATION OF
ARMS RACE, SHARP QUOTED AT LENGTH FROM PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS
ON DEFENSIVE INTENT OF SYSTEM. SHARP POINTED OUT THAT
PRESIDENT COULD HAVE INCREASED NUMBER OF MISSILES AND
BOMBERS BUT CHOSE ABM SYSTEM INSTEAD, BECAUSE FORMER
COURSE COULD HAVE BEEN MISINTERPRETED BY SOVIETS AS
THREAT TO THEIR DETERRENT.

3. MOVING TO POINT (B) SHARP SAID MOST IMPORTANT

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CONSIDERATION IS EFFECT OF PROPOSED ABM SYSTEM ON EAST-WEST RELATIONS. POINTED OUT ENCOURAGING STATEMENTS MADE BY BOTH US AND USSR IN STATEMENTS AT OPENING OF 1969 ENDC SESSION CONCERNING SERIOUS INTENTION OF BOTH TO SEEK FURTHER MEASURES OF ARMS LIMITATION AND CONTROL. WENT ON TO SAY THAT PEOPLE ARE NATURALLY CONCERNED ABOUT WHETHER PROSPECTS FOR THESE TALKS WILL BE JEOPARDIZED BY US DECISION ON ABM. SHARP NOT PREPARED TO DRAW HASTY OR PESSIMISTIC CONCLUSIONS, BUT SAID QUOTE AS EVIDENCE THAT WE MAY NOT BE FACED WITH AN ESCALATION, THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE 18 NATION DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE AT GENEVA YESTERDAY MADE NO REFERENCE WHATEVER TO THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION ON THE ABM, BUT DID INDICATE THE SOVIET UNION'S CONTINUING INTEREST IN TALKS ON LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC WEAPONS. UNQUOTE

4. TURNING TO POINT (C), CONSIDERATIONS FOR CANADA, SHARP SAID CANADA CANNOT DIVORCE ITS INTERESTS FROM THOSE OF THE REMAINDER OF MANKIND. ON THIS MATTER, CANADA CANNOT BE CONCERNED ONLY ABOUT THE DEFENSE OF CANADA OR EFFECTS OF FALLOUT FROM EXPLOSION OF MISSILES OVER CANADA. POINTED OUT THAT PURPOSE OF ANY DEFENSIVE SYSTEM IS THAT IT SHALL NEVER BE USED. IF ABM SYSTEM CONTRIBUTES TO STABILITY OF NUCLEAR BALANCE, AND AT SAME TIME DOES NOT PREJUDICE DISARMAMENT TALKS, BENEFITS ARE EVENLY SHARED. SHARP THEN ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO SUGGESTION THAT CANADIAN PERMISSION MIGHT BE REQUIRED BECAUSE SOME ABM MISSILES MIGHT BE EXPLODED OVER CANADA. HE SAID US HAS NOT REQUESTED USE OF CANADIAN AIRSPACE, BUT ADDED THAT IF US DOES PROCEED WITH ABM SYSTEM SHARP HAS QUOTE NO DOUBT BUT THAT THEY WILL SEEK OUR PERMISSION IF PERMISSION IS REQUIRED. UNQUOTE HE SAID DEPENDING ON NATURE OF SYSTEM, PERMISSION MAY OR MAY NOT BE REQUIRED. IN PERORATION, SHARP SAID QUOTE LET ME REMIND THE HOUSE, AS THE PRIME MINISTER DID, THAT WHATEVER THE LEGAL OR SCIENTIFIC POSITION MIGHT BE, IT SHOULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN THAT, IF IT EVER BECAME NECESSARY TO EMPLOY ABM'S OVER CANADIAN TERRITORY, WE WOULD AT THAT MOMENT ALREADY BE IN AS GREAT OR EVEN GREATER JEOPARDY FROM THE MISSILE OR MISSILES WHICH THE ABM'S WERE DIRECTED TO DESTROY. UNQUOTE

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5. DURING QUESTIONING WHICH FOLLOWED HIS REMARKS ABOVE, SHARP TACKLED ISSUE OF POSSIBLE CONTRADICTION BETWEEN REMARKS OF DEFMIN CADIEUX AND PRIMIN ON SUFFICIENCY OF INFORMATION PROVIDED BY US. HE SAID GOC HAD AMPLE INFORMATION ON SENTINEL SYSTEM, BUT NEW SYSTEM IS MODIFIED VERSION; GOC NEEDS TO KNOW WHETHER INFORMATION ON SENTINEL IS STILL RELEVANT TO NEW SYSTEM. HE SAID HE THOUGHT INFORMATION IS STILL RELEVANT WITH RESPECT TO FALLOUT AND DAMAGE FROM BURST, BUT THIS IS WHAT PRIMIN WILL BE DISCUSSING WITH PRESIDENT. SMITH

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